9:Iyer E-4, 5 (ca. 1902-1906) 1912
AWll Kerala AWll
Nayar

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laden on the backs of mules, asses, bullocks and buffaloes. 796
When once a large caravansary of Kongu laden with such com- 184
modities was passing through Chittur, the people of the four [439]
desams of Chittur, *viz.*, Chittur, Nallepilli, Tattamangalam, and Pattancheri, robbed the Kongans of all their animals and [492]
goods. The chief of Kongu, on receiving the information, naturally felt indignant, and despatched an ultimatum to the *Pramánakkars* of Chittur, demanding the surrender of the animals and the articles, failing which, it was said, he would overrun the four *desams*, destroy the houses, and kill all people even including women and children. On receiving the ultimatum, the people went to the temple of the Goddess, and there read the document before the image of the Goddess. It was so read by a member of the Chittedath house, in whose custody, it is said, the original document, written in a copper plate, is still preserved. The reading of the ultimatum, transcribed in a piece of cadjan, before the Bhagavati, is one of the essential functions performed on the night of the Kongapada festival every year, and it is always done by a member of the Chittedath family, who dresses himself up in the fashion of a Kongan and acts the part of the Kongu chief. When the document [776]
was read and the people prayed to their Goddess in one voice for protection, the Goddess commanded from within the temple that her 'children' need not fear and that when the Kongan took steps to enforce his ultimatum, she would protect them. On receiving no reply to the ultimatum, the Kongan mobilized his men and crossed the Walayar river, the northern boundary of the Chittur Taluk. The information about the crossing of the [314]
boundary was first carried to the Chitturians by the Izhuvans [273]
of the vicinity, who were up the palmyra trees early in the morning for the purpose of tapping for toddy, and they in a body climbed down the trees, and without removing their breast protecting leather straps, tapping knives, mallets and ladders, ran to the four *desams* all in excitement. In view [564]
of the above fact, the advance portion of the day procession of the Kongapada festival is even to this day made up of a number of persons, mostly of the Chetti caste, belonging to the four *desams*, dressed up in the full toddy-tapping kit of the Izhuvans. They do so every year in pursuance of religi- [782]
ous vows made by them for the attainment of particular

AVAILABILITY OF SURPLUS BAMBOO RESOURCES

Name of Division	Government Forests		Private Forests	
	Area in acres	Yield in tons of air-dry bamboos	Area in acres	Yield in tons of air-dry bamboos
Wynad	18,667	38,347	..	..
Kozhikode	20,045	61,479	14,735	32,391
Nilambur	18,865	46,536	20,988	24,015
Palaghat	3,090	8,634	2,890	5,586
Nemmara	6,800	18,054	25,460	81,361
Total	*67,467*	*173,678*	*64,100*	*143,353*

Source: Department of Forests, Kerala.

4.33 Out of the above surplus, it was recently agreed to supply 1,60,000 tons to M/s Gwalior Rayons for setting up a Rayon factory. They have also been promised an additional 1,00,000 tons when the factory is in full production. The latter amount could only be made available after the private forests have been acquired by the Government. No extraction has so far been started owing to the flowering that has taken place over a wide area in the forests.

4.34 On the basis of the above estimate of available and committed supplies, there still remains a balance of about 56,000 tons which could be utilized as raw material for paper manufacture. However, the paper mill project can be undertaken only after full regeneration in the flowered areas has taken place.[1]

4.35 During this interval it would be advisable to undertake surveys of other bamboo-bearing areas in the Travancore-Cochin area. At the same time efforts should be made to divert a part of bamboo at present being utilized for local requirements to industry. Far too high a proportion (about 66%) is being utilized for non-industrial uses.

4.36 (*ii*) *Eta Reed Resources* : The two reeds *Ochlandra travancorica* and *Ochlandra Rheedi* occur in forests of the State. These reeds are at present being supplied under a concession granted to Punalur Paper Mills Ltd. The reeds in these coupes flowered from 1953–57 and, consequently, the Punalur Mill is getting only about 5,000 tons of reeds from the allotted coupes against their annual requirements of 25,000 tons of green reeds. After full generation takes place in the flowered area, the available supply of eta reeds would be roughly 50,000 tons. The surplus of 25,000 tons may by utilized by the Punalur Paper Mills which is planning to double its present capacity during the Third Plan.

4.37 (*iii*) *Minor Forest Produce* : A large number of medicinal plants exist in the State. But the potential is hardly being utilized. Against a gross revenue of Rs. 5.1 crores from the forests, minor forest produce was responsible for only Rs. 5.2 lakhs, that is, 1.7 per cent. This is unlike the neighbouring States of Mysore and Madras where minor forest produce contributed a substantial part of the revenue. A phyto-chemical plant is being set up at Neriamangalam. It will require a large

[1] Further details of a paper factory are discussed in the Chapter on Industries.

number of items of minor forest produce. It is, therefore, suggested that a proper survey of the forest areas should be conducted to assess the extent of minor forest products available in the State. This will bring out the raw material potentialities for the phyto-chemical industry as well as other small scale industries which could be based on the minor forest produce of the State.

Raising the Long-run Forest Potential

4.38 There is not much scope in Kerala for extension of area under forests through afforestation programmes. There are already a number of competing claimants for land use. The proportion of area under protective vegetal cover, as discussed, is also quite adequate in Kerala. What is necessary is to minimize the extent of further in-roads into forest areas by clear felling for cultivation, etc.

4.39 Having ruled out large scale afforestation as a means of improving the forest resources, the only other possible methods, to augment the forest pontential are improvement in forest management and raising of new commercial plantations. Forests under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department are already being managed on scientific lines. The primary need, therefore, is the acquisition of private forests so that the standards of management could be enforced uniformly throughout the State.

COMMERCIAL PLANTATIONS

Teak

4.40 In addition to the existing 75,000 acres under teak, there are 640,000 additional acres of low quality deciduous forests which are suitable for conversion into the valuable teak plantations. This changeover will considerably improve productivity of the deciduous belt. About 9,000 to 10,000 acres can be taken up every year against 2,000 to 2,500 acres being planted annually at present. The technique of raising these plantations has been perfected in Kerala and the present agri-silvicultural method, whereby the plantations are raised free of any cost to the State, may be continued.

Rosewood

4.41 Rosewood is in great demand by the furniture industry. Logs of over 72" girth are also exported, mostly to Italy. The supply is getting exhausted and it is desirable to replenish the stock by raising new plantations. The tree is slow growing. It is, therefore, proposed that it should generally be raised on the periphery of the teak plantations where it can be left to grow for 2 or 3 teak rotations. There should be no extra cost as the plantations are to be raised along with teak by the agri-silvicultural method.

Softwood Plantations

4.42 As a result of the difficulties in the way of regeneration of evergreen forests, the softwood species grown in these forests are in short supply. By the end of the

11: India G-4, 5 (1960-1961) 1962 AW11 Kerala AW11

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Appendix 8 (Continued)

1	2	3	4	5
19. *Mula*	*Dendrocalamus*			Bamboos for cheap housing, raw material for paper and rayon
20. *Pala*	*Alstonia scholaris*	E	S	Packing cases
21. *Irul*	*Xylia Xylocarpa*	D	H	Railway sleepers, building construction
22. *Kalpine*	*Dipterocarpus indicus*	E	S	Plywood
23. *Kassa*	*Cassia fistula*	D	S	Tanning
24. *Vellangil (white cedar)*	*Dysoxylum malabaricum*	E	H	Plywood and furniture
25. *Nellika*	*Phyllanthus emblica*	E	H	Fruits for pickling and for Ayurvedic medicines
26. *Maravetti*	*Hydnocarpus wightiana*	E	H	Soap-making, oil used for lighting purpose
27. *Eta reed*	*Ochlandra Travancoria and Beddi*			Raw material for paper
28. *Podiri*	*Stereospermum Chelonoides*	E	S	Packing cases
29. *Pilavu*	*Artocarpus integrifolia*	D	H	Building construction, boat-making, furniture, etc.
30. *Poola (Elavu)*	*Salmalia Malabaricum*	D	S	Matchwood, cotton used for pillows
31. *Poovam*	*Schleichera trijuga*	D	H	For lac cultivation
32. *Poovu*	*Calophyllum tomentosa*	E	H	Plywood and cheap timber for construction purposes
33. *Kumlingum*	*Hopea parviflora*	E	H	Building construction, sleepers, etc.
34. *Vakkai*	*Sterculia Villosa*			Cember Bark (fibre) used for making ropes for timber dragging purposes
35. *Chakotta*	*Colonia ewelia*	E	S	Plywood
36. *Vellapine*	*Vateria indica*	E	S	A favourite plywood species
37. *Mathi*	*Ailanthus malabaricum (ewelia)*	D	S	Matchwood
38. *Pali*	*Palaquium Elipticum*	E	S	Plywood
39. *Kulamavu*	*Machilus Macrantha*	E	S	-do-
40. *Mavu*	*Mangifera indica*	E	S	Plywood, boat-building, packing cases
41. *Kalamaicha*	*Anacolosa densiflora*	E	S	Plywood
42. *Kayari (chuvu)*	*Callonia ewelia*	E	S	-do-
43. *Shweli*	*Hardwickia Pinnata*	E	S	-do-

(Continued)

11: India . G-4, 5 (1960-1961) 1962 AWII Kerala AWII

Appendix 5 (Continued)

1	2	3	4	5
44. ..	*Eucalyptus grandis*	E	S	Pulp timber
45. *Blue gum*	*E. Globulus*	E	S	Pulp timber
46. *Cashew*	*Anacardium Occidentale*	E	H	Nuts and apple
47. *Kadukka*	*Terminalia Chebula, and belerica*	D	H	Myrobalans
48. *Punnappumaram*	*Delenia [illegible]cyna*	D	H	House construction
49. *Vellali*	*Anogeissus latifolia*	D	H	Mine props
50. *Nedunar*	*Polialthia fragrans*	E	S	Masts and packing cases
51. *Nedunar*	*Polialthia fragrans*	E	H	Cabinet-making and furniture
52. *Malaveppu*	*Chukrasia tabularis*	E	H	-do-
53. *Chenkurunthi*	*Elattrancoria*	E	H	-do-
54. *Venkotta*	*Lophopetlum wightianum*	E	S	Plywood
55. *Puli*	*Tamarindus indica*	D	E	Fruit good glue material, Bobbins
56. *Aval*	*Holoptelea integrifolia*	E	S	Box and packing cases
57. *Black dammar*	*Canarium strictum*	E	S	Packing cases
58. *Pupitta*	*Sterculia campulata*	E	S	Matchwood, packing cases
59. *Kambli (Nasatam)*	*Erodia roxburghiana*	E	S	Matchwood
60. *Vella Kamadamba*	*Hyrenodictan excelsa*	D	S	Bobbins
61. *Poovarasu*	*Thespesia populnea*	D	H	Shuttles
62. *Datapala*	*Wightia tinctoria*	D	H	Combs, and carvings
63. ..	*Gmelina arborium*	D	H	Musical instruments
64. *Punga*	*Pongamia glabra*	D	H	Oil seeds
65. *Mukuyini*	*Bridelia retusa*	D	H	Tans and dyes
66. *Chanda*	*Caesalpinia sappan*	D	H	Dyes
67. *Udi*	*Odina wodier*	D	H	Gum used for curving fishermen's nets

Source : Department of Forests, Government of Kerala.

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